AN

# ACCOUNT

OF

# Oliver Hawley

AND

# John Condon,

Who were Executed at

# TYBURN,

On *Friday* the 2*d.* of *July*, 1686. For Robing His Majesties *Male*, near

# ILFORD,

in the County of

# ESSEX.

WHereas *R*——— *A*——— *Oliver Hawley*, and *John Condon*, were on *Tuesday* the 22*d.* of *July*, 1686. Tryed at the *King's-Bench Bar*, for Robing the King's *Male*, on the 12*th.* Day of *April* last past, at or near *Ilford*, in the County of *Essex*, and upon full Evidence, found Guilty of the said Robery; together with one *John Smith*, not yet Apprehended; it has since pleased his most Gracious Majesty to ex-

extend his Royal Mercy to *R*-------- *A*------- in Granting him his Reprieve, who continues ſtill in *Newgate*, in hopes of his Majeſties farther Clemency.

I ſhall not pretend here, to give any particular Account of the Life or Character of *R*------- *A*---------- as being an Object of the King's Mercy; not doubting but whatever former Faults he may have Committed, the influence of ſo much Royal Grace and Favour ſhewed upon him, may be a means of that ſolid Converſion, which may regulate his future Actions, as to make the remainder of his Life, attone for his paſt Follys and Offences.

My preſent Buſineſs therefore, is to give you ſome knowledge of *Oliver Hawley* and *John Condon*, the preſent juſt Sufferers for this Notorious Robery.

The more Eminent of which Malefactors *Oliver Hawley*, Aged at his Death about Thirty Years, was by Birth an *Iriſhman* and accordingly received his Education in his Youth in his Native Country, till about Ten Years ſince, through ſome unhappy Miſdemeanors Committed there, he was Compelled to quit *Ireland*, and take Sanctuary in *England*, where being in *Kent*, and living to that height of Expences, which the Pockets of his Relations were not well able to ſupport, and for the maintenance of which, it was very much ſuſpected he muſt have uſed no very honeſt Courſe of Life, as was ſoon after made manifeſt; for in a a little time after he Robed a Farmer, that lived on the back ſide of *Windmill Hill*, near *Graveſend* in *Kent*, of 9 *l.* and upwards, for which, he was Apprehended and Committed to *Maidſtone-Goal*, and for the ſaid Fact received Sentence of Condemnation: Never theleſs, through great interceſſion, he obtained ſo much Remiſſion of his Sentence, as to be Reprieved from Death and Tranſported to *Jamaica*. But truly, that Country agreed ſo little with his Conſtitution, that he made a ſhift in a very ſhort time to get home; and to divert the Danger of a too early appearance in *England*, he went over into *Flanders*, and enter himſelf a Souldier, under the late *James Scot*, then at the Seige of *Maſtricht*; however, this Honourable Employment being not extraordinary much in his Element, he continued not long in that ſervice, for growing in League with one of his Comrades, they Confederated together, and Committed a very Notorious Robery, and afterwards (as Brothers in iniquity are not always the ſtrongeſt Friends) a Quarrel aroſe between them, in which, he made a ſhift to Kill his ſaid Comrade, and ſo very fairly, by way of ſelf preſervation, he took Care to avoid a double Danger, that threatned him for both thoſe Crimes, by flying to *Bourdeuux*, where being ſafely Arrived, he had Recourſe to a never failing Tallent of his, *viz.* good Words and hearty Proteſtations, and thereby wrought himſelf ſo far into the Favour of a Maſter of a Ship then bound with *French Wines* for *England*, as to ſelect him for his peculiar Friend and confident, Careſſing him before, and alſo during his whole Voyage at no common rate of Civility, bearing his whole Charges, and ſupplying his whole Wants for bare asking for: For all thoſe many and ſignal Courteſies; no ſooner was the Maſter of the ſaid Ship Arrived in *England*, but the firſt Return of Gratitude from the ſaid *Hawley*, the Snake, that Patron had ſo generouſly warm'd in his Boſome, was inſtantly to inform the Commiſſioners of the *Cuſtome-Houſe* of the ſaid French Wines, then imported contrary to Act of Parliament; by this means the whole Cargoe was ſeized and condemned, and the poor Maſter of the Veſſel utterly Ruined and undone. Upon this, he got into ſome Buſineſs about the *Cuſtome-Houſe*, and being in ſome Credit

dit from this preferment, he ſoon after, with ſome other fellow ſervants of his own Quality, went down the River to attend the coming in of ſome Ships then expected, and accordingly they went aboard of an *Eaſt-India* Merchant, where a certain Lady was on Board to buy ſome Rarities, wherein the ſaid *Hawley* did her ſome little ſervice, for which ſhe gave him a Guinea. But *Hawley*, upon further ſearch on his Majeſtys Account in the ſaid Ship, took occaſion to be brib'd to a Connivance, by a preſent of Silks made to him, (for indeed, a perſon ſo notoriouſly falſe before to his Friend, would not be over apt of being extraordinary true to his Prince;) but his fellow ſearchers ſuſpecting *Hawley*, made bold to open the bundle of Silks (which he pretended was foul Linnen) and thereby detected his Corruption, for which being complained of, he was turned out; the loſs of which Employment put him to hard ſhifts, but by a ſudden fetch of Wit, he applyed himſelf to the aforeſaid Lady, and very cuningly telling of her a falſe ground of his Expulſion, he repreſenting to her, that the Receipt of her Guinea, and not his own Bribery, was the occaſion of his turning out, interceſſion was made for him, and he regained his admiſſion into his place; upon this, ſome of his Brethren reſenting this falſe inſinuation, and not over-well likeing the Behaviour and Principals of the ſaid *Hawley*, got a Copy of his former Conviction for Robery in *Kent*, and were juſt upon craving Judgment thereupon, but *Hawley* being timely Alarum'd at the Proſecution againſt him, very prudently withdrew, and kept himſelf hid, till he got himſelf into a Free-Pardon, during this time, having heaped together no little indignation & malice againſt his late Proſecutors; he took occaſion of venting his Poiſon and Spleen, by ſwearing againſt a very great Number of them, how juſtly, or unjuſtly he was their Accuſer; God only that knows the Secrets of mens hearts can truly judge; however, he ſo far ſtrugled up in the World again, that he at length got into Employment again, in *Eſſex*

He was in a Creditable and profitable Station, when he entered into this Combination of Robing the *Male*, being thereby the better informed what Sums of Gold the *Jews* and other Traders into *England* do almoſt dayly import into this Kingdom, however, as far as the Office he was in contributed to his privity and knowledge hereof, his own Avarice ('tis certain) was the main inſtrument of his Ruin; when not contented with ſo credible and competent portion of Worldly Happineſs as his Place with honeſty might have ſupplyed him withall, he durſt imbargue in ſo notorious a deſign, as has juſtly pulled down, not only its own vengeance along with it, but alſo that Arrears of Puniſhment, not till now paid, for all the tranſgreſions of his former leud and enormorous Life.

As to his behaviour in Priſon ſince his Condemnation and nearer his day of Execution, his deportment has all along appeared very aery and unconcerned; and as for what Audit he may have made with God before his departure, is wholly unknown; his Religeon whatever it were, I ſhall not meddle with it.

The other perſon *John Condon*, Condemned and Executed with the ſaid *Hawly*, was a Native of *Ireland* alſo, but the Tranſactions and Conduct of his Life, have no way been ſo remarkable, nor indeed is there any particular of that Note, worth recounting here; let it ſuffice that as this Relation conſiſts of nothing but very great Truths; we have informed our ſelves of nothing more relating to the ſaid *Condon*, than that he ſomitime ſince kept a Chandlers Shop almoſt over a-

againſt

gainſt the *Fountain Tavern* in the *Strand*, near the *Savoy*.

His behaviour in Priſon hath been much different from that of his fellow ſufferer, having had ſome remorſe for his ſo great offence.

On *Friday* between Ten and Eleven of the Clock in the Morning, they were put into a Cart at *Newgate* and conveyed to the place of Execution, where being Arrived, were ( making no Speech at all ) Executed according to Law.

# FINIS.

*This may be Printed*, R P.
*the* 2d. *of* July, 1686.

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